

# memorandum

DATE: August 6, 2012

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Ben Deschuytter  
Project Manager –TEP-CSB-1

**Proposed Action:** D Analog Communications Retirement at Del Rio, Chief Joseph, and Foster Creek

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.19 Microwave, meteorological, and radio towers

**Location:** Douglas County, Washington

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to upgrade communication equipment at three existing facilities in Douglas County, Washington. The work would occur at two of BPA's substations, Del Rio and Chief Joseph, and at BPA's Foster Creek radio site. Activities at these sites are in connection with the retirement of BPA's D analog communication system. At Del Rio, activities would include excavation of asphalt and soil for a new 90 foot high quad-legged radio tower; removing 65 feet of old fence and replacing it with 85 feet of new fence; and the installation of waveguide entry points and an ice bridge. A new waveguide entry point would be installed at Chief Joseph, and a 60 foot section would be added on top of the existing radio tower at Foster Creek. All activities are within previously disturbed lands on BPA property.

**Findings:** BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity

would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements.

This proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Stephanie Breeden  
Stephanie Breeden  
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason  
Stacy Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 6, 2012

Attachment:  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

# Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: D Analog Communications Retirement at Del Rio, Chief Joseph, and Foster Creek

Work Order #: 283848

**This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.**

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources No potential to effect cultural resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety Workers would follow BPA standards for Health and Safety during construction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Stephanie Breeden

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